C L A I M S

1. A communication quality management method
of multicasting data from a distribution server to a
plurality of reception terminals via a router connected
to a network, characterized by comprising the steps of:

adding quality information to a multicast
packet distributed from the distribution server;

acquiring the quality information from the
multicast packet distributed via the router; and

distributing, to the reception terminal, the
multicast packet from which the quality information is
removed.

2. A communication quality management method
according to claim 1, characterized by further
comprising the step of adding the quality information as
a quality information header in an IP header, UDP
header, and stream data of a packet from the
distribution server.

3. A communication quality management method
according to claim 1, characterized by further
comprising the step of adding the quality information
before a packet from the distribution server as an IP
header, UDP header, and quality information header.

4. A communication quality management method
according to claim 1, characterized by further
comprising the step of containing packet loss
information, distribution delay information, and

5 fluctuation information in the quality information.

5.   A communication quality management method

2 according to claim 1, characterized by further

3 comprising the step of saving, as database for each

4 reception terminal, quality information acquired from

5 the multicast packet.

6.   A communication quality management

2 apparatus for multicasting data from a distribution

3 server to a plurality of reception terminals via a

4 router connected to a network, characterized by

5 comprising:

6   a server proxy arranged between the

7 distribution server and the router to add quality

8 information to a multicast packet;

9   a reception terminal proxy arranged between

10 the router and the reception terminal and including a

11 quality information acquisition unit which acquires,

12 from the multicast packet, the quality information added

13 by said server proxy and a quality information

14 calculation/transmission unit, said reception terminal

15 proxy distributing, to the reception terminal, the

16 multicast packet from which the quality information is

17 removed; and

18   an accumulation server which receives and

19 accumulates the quality information from said reception

20 terminal proxy.

7.   A communication quality management

2   apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that a

3   quality information database storing, for each reception

4   terminal, quality information acquired, calculated, and

5   received by said accumulation server is connected to

6   said accumulation server.

        8. A communication quality management

2   apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that a

3   quality management server which receives packet quality

4   information from said accumulation server and sets QoS

5   of the router is connected to said accumulation server.